

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Prostitution is a social phenomenon which has existed long time ago and happens everywhere due to economic inequality. This kind of sexual activity in exchange of money or reward becomes controversy in the society. The phenomenon of prostitution happens in various forms and it is legal in some countries such as Denmark, Finland, Costa Rica, Canada, Argentina, Switzerland, France, Germany, Netherland, Spain, Italia, and Belgium based on the consideration to protect women from sexual abuse (www.jawapos.com). In contrast, many countries in the world assume that prostitution is a kind of exploitation of women. According to Thukral, Ditmore, & Murphy (in Ditmore, 2006) prostitution is classified as the oldest profession in this world.

There are fundamental reasons that lead prostitutes to do this risky profession. Most of them are trapped in the prostitution ring because of economic reason. Besides that, there are other reasons such as exploitation, compulsion, environmental influence, life style, and frustration. Although there are many reasons behind it, prostitution is seen as the violation of norm in the social life. Prostitution is not only a concern for sociologists, religionists, and government, but also the author like Paulo Coelho who produces the novel that is related to the issue of prostitution.

Paulo Coelho is a well-known Brazilian author who has created many popular novels such as *The Pilgrimage* (1987), *The Alchemist* (1988), *Brida* (1990), *The Valkyries* (1992), *Maktub* (1994), *By The River Piedra I Sat Down and Wept* (1994), *The Fifth Mountain* (1996), *Manual of The Warrior of Light* (1997), *Veronica Decides to Die* (1998), *The Devil and Miss Prym* (2000), *The Zahir* (2005), *The Witch of Portobello* (2006), *Like The Flowing River* (2006), *The Winner Stands Alone* (2008), *Aleph* (2010), *Manuscript Found in Accra* (2012), *Adultery* (2014), *The Spy* (2016) and also involving *Eleven*

Minutes (2003) that the researcher intends to use it as the object of the study. Paulo Coelho is a very well-known author who has sold his works more than 195 million copies translated into over 80 languages and spread in at least 170 countries around the world (www.worldreader.org).

One of the literary works that portrays the phenomenon of prostitution is Paulo Coelho's *Eleven Minutes*. This novel is published in 2003. It is written in Portuguese entitled *Onze Minutos*. It is translated into English version by Margaret Jull Costa in 2005. Paulo Coelho's *Eleven Minutes* received an award from Ex Libris award Serbia in 2004 (www.merdeka.com). It becomes one of the best seller novels besides *The Alchemist*.

This novel is categorized as adult novel because it reveals the story of Maria, a Brazilian woman who works as a prostitute. Maria faced many problems in her life resulted in the decision to become a prostitute. Maria was a naive woman who had an ideal to travel around the world. She also wanted to have a husband who was able to fulfill her needs. At the age of eleven, Maria found her first love. But her first love disappeared without any clarity, so Maria was depressed because of it. She never believed about true love again. Maria began to find happiness in other way. When Maria was fifteen years old she began to feel unusual experience with boy such as kissing, caress, and hugging. Every moment was expressed through her diary.

One day after she decided to resign from a draper's shop, Maria went to holiday in Rio de Janeiro, the city that she dreamed of. While she was on holiday, she met a strange man named Roger who offered her to be a samba dancer with high salary in Switzerland. Maria accepted and decided to go to Switzerland in search of money. Apparently, the man fooled her and broke the promise to give her high salary. Maria was sad because she had nothing to survive in Geneva city. Then she thought to become a model. Meeting with a model agency led Maria to become a prostitute. In the Copacabana nightclub she officially became a prostitute. In Switzerland, the phenomenon of prostitution was really usual for Maria. She became accustomed to have sexual intercourse with many men. She had earned much money by doing her

job as a prostitute. But one day she met a man who could change her life. In the cafe, she met a painter named Ralf Hart. He taught Maria about the true love that was not only revolved around eleven minutes of sex and made her quit from that risky job.

Eleven Minutes has been read by many people in this world. There are positive and negative feedbacks given by the readers of this novel. The responses towards *Eleven Minutes* are taken from www.goodreads.com. The example came from Pooja who commented on April 10th 2016 that she adored this novel instantly because the story of the main character who tried to find the pleasure of the world. Secondly, Pramudith Rupasinghe on August 19th 2017 reviewed that *Eleven Minutes* novel was appealing and eye-opening but it was not as awesome as the previous novel *Veronica Decided to Die*. In addition, Hayfa Yehya on December 31st 2015 mentioned that she loved the way Paulo Coelho wrote the story simply and honestly. Yehya also mentioned that she liked the diary notes within the novel.

In contrast, there are many negative feedbacks in *goodreads* website towards *Eleven Minutes* novel. First, Prem commented on October 27th 2017 that the novel was boring perhaps because of many theories inside the novel. Moreover, negative response came from Felicia on April 2nd 2007. She mentioned that *Eleven Minutes* was not as good as *The Alchemist*. She thought that Paulo Coelho was too much analyzing sex in this work. She could not find it as enjoyable as Paulo's previous works. Moreover, Luther J. Kalso also gave negative comment towards Paulo Coelho's *Eleven Minutes* on January 30th 2016. He mentioned that this novel was bad and boring. He added that *Eleven Minutes* had tiresome direction. It objectified woman in a bad manner and overestimated about sex and money generally.

In conducting the research, the researcher chooses *Eleven Minutes* as the material object because of three reasons. First, the subject matter of *Eleven Minutes* novel is interesting because it is about prostitution which becomes a sensitive issue that happens in the real life. However, prostitution is not a usual topic to be included in the novel. Prostitution is seen as a sensitive issue

because it violates norms and values. In this novel, the phenomenon of prostitution that happens in Switzerland becomes a common view in the society even the prostitutes come from other countries besides Switzerland.

Second, *Eleven Minutes* novel has a strong major character named Maria who has ideal to be rich and successful woman, but she is naive because she perceives that successful person is someone who is able to go abroad. Because of her perception, Maria goes to Switzerland in order to get a better job but apparently she is cheated by someone then she is trapped in the prostitution ring. She survives in Switzerland with all of her efforts and creativities.

Third, the setting of the story is attractive because it takes place in two different countries, Brazil and Switzerland. In the beginning, the story takes place in Brazil during Maria's childhood and adolescence. The setting of the story moves to Switzerland when Maria works as a samba dancer in search of money.

From the explanation above, the researcher is interested in conducting a study by using Paulo Coelho's *Eleven Minutes* novel as the material object. The researcher discusses the issue about pragmatic reasons of the major character in becoming a prostitute by using pragmatism theory. Therefore, the research entitled **THE MAJOR CHARACTER'S PRAGMATIC REASONS OF BECOMING A PROSTITUTE IN PAULO COELHO'S *ELEVEN MINUTES* (2003).**

B. Problem Statement

In order to depict how the major character's pragmatic reasons of becoming a prostitute are reflected in the work, the problem statement is further dissected into the following research questions:

1. What are the indicators of the pragmatic reasons of becoming a prostitute in the work?
2. How are the pragmatic reasons of becoming a prostitute depicted in the work?

3. Why does the pragmatic reasons of becoming a prostitute specifically addressed by the author in the work?

C. Limitation of the Study

The researcher discusses the issue about the major character's pragmatic reasons of becoming a prostitute that is depicted in Paulo Coelho's *Eleven Minutes*. The theory of pragmatism by William James and John Dewey is used as the theoretical framework to analyze the data in this research.

D. Objectives of the Study

Objectives of the research are in accordance with the research questions:

1. To identify the indicators of the pragmatic reasons of becoming a prostitute in the work.
2. To describe how the pragmatic reasons of becoming a prostitute are depicted in the work.
3. To reveal the underlying reasons why the pragmatic reasons of becoming a prostitute is specifically addressed by the author in the work.

E. Benefits of the Study

The researcher hopes that the results can provide benefits for others. The benefits can be divided into theoretical benefits and practical benefits in the following description.

1. Theoretical Benefits

a. The Researcher

The result of this study can be beneficial for other researchers who want to conduct a research that is related to this novel. It can give them reference about *Eleven Minutes* novel that is studied by using pragmatism theory. Moreover, this study can be beneficial for others who are interested in analyzing literary work.

b. Language Learner

The result of this study can be learned to know about pragmatism theory by William James and John Dewey, basically in the issue about the major character's pragmatic reasons of becoming a prostitute.

2. Practical Benefits

This research is conducted by the researcher to complete the final project as the requirement in order to get bachelor degree of education in Department of English Education.